



*Supporting the economic, social and environmental
well-being of California's Central Valley.*

In partnership with the University of California Merced

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January 6, 2010

Chairman, Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The Great Valley Center works on digital divide challenges in rural California's San Joaquin Valley. We believe residents in small towns should have access to all the information and opportunities available to those who live in cities. High-speed broadband connections provide their best, and sometimes their only, access to what the larger world has to offer. We specialize in training people in at-risk families to use a computer to improve their education and work lives.

Because broadband access is so critical, we are concerned that net neutrality may deter service providers from additional investment in rural broadband infrastructure. Such expansion will provide more than just the ability to access essential services; it creates new, good jobs in areas that are facing crushing unemployment levels, the likes of which we have not seen in 70 years.

We ask that the Commission make public any reports, data or information that show how proposed rules will impact broadband deployment and adoption, particularly in rural parts of the country like the San Joaquin Valley.

Sincerely,

David Hosley
President, Great Valley Center